

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /144 W

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P R 231206Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5865

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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DIA WASHDC

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CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5727

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB, ECON
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 23, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE RELATIVE MILITARY QUIET WHICH HAD PREVAILED THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE KHMER NEW YEAR PERIOD ENDED ABRUPTLY ON APRIL 21 WHEN THE ENEMY FORCED FANK TO ABANDON THE KOMPONG LUONG BRIDGEHEAD NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER. THIS SECOND FANK SETBACK IN THE AREA DURING THE CURRENT DRY SEASON PLACES IN QUESTION FANK'S ABILITY TO PREVENT THE INTERDICTION OF THE TONLE SAP RIVER, WHICH IS NOW PHNOM PENH'S ONLY SURFACE ROUTE TO THE FOOD PRODUCING PROVINCES OF THE GREAT LAKE REGION. KHIEU SAMPHAN CONTINUED TO PROVIDE MOST OF THE NEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THIS WEEK FROM TIRANA AS THE GRUNK/ FUNK DELEGATION EXTENDED ITS TOUR TO EUROPE AND AFRICA. THE PURPOSE OF THE LENGTHY VOYAGE IS EVIDENTLY TO BUILD UP KHIEU SAMPHAN'S INTERNATIONAL STATURE AT THE EXPENSE OF THAT OF SIHANOUK, WHO SPENT THE WEEK IN PYONGYANG BANQUETING AND RANTING AGAINST THE US.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. ON APRIL 18 THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REVIEWED FANK'S MANPOWER PROBLEMS. THEY DECIDED INTER ALIA TO BEGIN CON-
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SCRIPTION OF CIVIL SERVANTS. DEFENSE MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED MINISTRIES TO DRAW UP A CENSUS OF MALE PERSONNEL AND ORDERED HIS STAFF TO PREPARE A DECREE TO COVER TERMS OF SERVICE FOR FUNCTIONARIES. IN PHNOM PENH THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN CAME OUT OF ITS PRE-KHMER NEW YEAR DOLDRUMS AND PRODUCED 676 MEN DURING APRIL 17-22.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

3. ON APRIL 22 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT LON NOL HAD GIVEN AGREEMENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF NORMAN VICTOR FARREL AS NEW ZEALAND'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC. FARREL WILL RESIDE IN SAIGON AS DID HIS PREDECESSOR, SIR LEONARD THORNTON.

4. MOHANIKAY SECT SUPREME PATRIARCH HUOT TATH LEFT FOR BANGKOK APRIL 21 TO ATTEND APRIL 23 FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR THE LATE THAI CHIEF RELIGIOUS LEADER.

GRUNK/FUNK

5. THE GRUNK/FUNK DELEGATION FROM THE INTERIOR, AFTER MARKING TIME IN THE CHINESE PROVINCES (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT), HAS NOW EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE TOUR WHICH WILL APPARENTLY CARRY IT TO ALBANIA, RUMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, ALGERIA, MAURITANIA AND CAMEROON. IT IS PROBABLE THAT INVITATIONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL ARE BEING SOLICITED BY KHIEU SAMPHAN AND HIS ENTOURAGE. GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE DELEGATION AND IS THE ONLY SIHANOUK SUPPORTER ON IT. COMMENT: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE BEHIND THE EXTENSION OF THE TRIP TO EUROPE AND AFRICA APPEARS TO BE TO ELEVATE THE INTERNATIONAL STATURE OF KHIEU SAMPHAN AND LESSEN GRUNK/FUNK'S RELIANCE ON SKHANOUK. END COMMENT.

6. THE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN ALBANIA ON APRIL 20 FOR A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITS AND BANQUETS. IN TIRANA KHIEU SAMPHAN CONTINUED TO SAY, AS HE HAS THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, THAT THE US MUST WITHDRAW ALL PERSONNEL AND ASSISTANCE FROM CAMBODIA SO THAT THE CAMBODIANS CAN SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. THE ALBANIANS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SHOOK CONFIDENTIAL

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A STICK AT MOSCOW, SAYING THAT THE "SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS" ARE ATTEMPTING "IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER THE SABOTAGING OF THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE". COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST STOP TO OUR KNOWLEDGE WHERE THE GRUNK/FUNK GROUP HAS BEEN TREATED TO OPEN ANTI-SOVIET COMMENT. END COMMENT. THE HOSTS ALSO CITED THE "ALBANIAN-CAMBODIAN STATEMENT OF JUNE 27, 1972" WHICH PLEDGED THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE TO "POWERFULLY AND UNRESERVEDLY" SUPPORT THE "JUST ARMED STRUGGLE" OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE.

7. SIHANOUK, MEANWHILE, CONTINUED
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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /144 W

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P R 231206Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5866

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CGFMFPAC

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7/13 AF

7TH PSYOPS

COMUSSAG

III MAF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5727

9. THE FUNK RADIO ANNOUNCED THE FIRST CONGRESS OF "FRATERNAL CAMBODIAN MOSLEMS" IN THE EASTERN REGION. COMMENT: THIS MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO PACIFY CHAMS ALONG THE UPPER MEKONG WHOSE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE KC HAS CAUSED DISSENTION AND SOME ARMED CLASHES.

10. NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG AND VICE PREMIER NGUYEN DUY TRINH WERE REPORTED BY HANOI VNA TO HAVE BEEN "WARMLY RECEIVED" BY QUEEN SISOWATH KOSSOMAK ON APRIL 15 IN PEKING. GRUNK PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH AND FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK ALSO TALKED WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS ON THE SAME DAY.

ECONOMIC

11. ON APRIL 21, PHNOM PENH RICE STOCKS AMOUNTED TO 47,000 METRIC TONS INCLUDING 7,000 M/T WHICH ARRIVED THE SAME DAY VIA THE MEKONG. ON APRIL 16, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY MONTHS, A 500 M/T RICE SHIPMENT FROM BATTAMBANG ARRIVED IN THE CAPITAL VIA ROUTE 5 TO KOMPONG CHHNANG AND THE TONLE SAP TO PHNOM PENH. (THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER SUCH SHIPMENTS APPEAR GRIM FOR THE TIME BEING -- SEE MILITARY). DESPITE THE HIGH RATE OF DAILY RICE DISTRIBUTION PRECEDING THE KHMER NEW YEAR, DISTRIBUTION DURING THE FIRST 21 DAYS OF APRIL WAS A NORMAL 647 M/T PER DAY.

12. THE BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATE FELL OVER THE PAST WEEK-
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END FROM 800 TO 750 RIELS PER DOLLAR ON MONDAY, APRIL 22.
THE DIP SEEMS TO BE THE MARKET REACTION TO THE POST-NEW YEAR BUSINESS SLUMP.

MILITARY

13. FANK SUFFERED A SECOND MAJOR SETBACK IN THE OUDONG AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH THIS WEEK WHEN THE ENEMY FORCED TWO BRIGADES AND SUPPORTING UNITS OCCUPYING THE KOMPONG LUONG BRIDGEHEAD TO ABANDON THEIR POSITIONS AND MUCH OF THEIR EQUIPMENT. FANK FORCES EVACUATED TOWARDS ANOTHER FRIENDLY ENCLAVE AT LOVEK 8 KMS TO THE NORTHWEST WHEN ENEMY INFILTRATORS ON APRIL 20 AND 21 SUCCEEDED IN ISOLAT-

ING THE BRIDGEHEAD FROM THE TONLE SAP RIVER AND SHELLING AN ARTILLERY POSITION AND COMMAND POST. AS OF APRIL 23, 1,232 GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITH THEIR PERSONAL WEAPONS AND 12 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS HAD REACHED LOVEK. OVER 600 MEN WERE UNACCOUNTED FOR AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD ALTHOUGH OTHER STRAGGLERS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH LOVEK. AMONG THE EQUIPMENT LOST AT KOMPONG LUONG WERE FOUR 105MM HOWITZERS (TWO OF WHICH WERE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED AND ONE DAMAGED), A NUMBER OF OTHER CREW SERVED WEAPONS, TWO ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (INOPERABLE), A BULLDOZER, AND OTHER ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT. KAF AIRCRAFT SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING SOME OF THE AMMUNITION AND TWO NAVAL RICER CRAFT LEFT BEACHED AT KOMPONG LUONG.

14. AT KAMPOT FANK MADE SOME PROGRESS IN EXTENDING THE COASTAL CITY'S PERIMETER BUT THE RIVERINE RESUPPLY ROUTE IS STILL CLOSED. THE KOMPONG THOM AND TAKEO GARRISONS CONTINUED TO OPERATE WELL OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL PERIMETERS AND, NOTABLY AT KG. THOM, INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY.

15. SEVEN KM SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER TIMELY COMMITMENT OF 2ND DIVISION TROOPS RELIEVED PRESSURE AND THWARTED ENEMY INITIATIVES. OTHER ACTIVITY IN THE CAPITAL CITY AREA WAS LIMITED TO TROOP MOVEMENTS AIMED AT FREEING THE 4TH AND 24TH BRIGADES FROM DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ON ROUTE 1 FOR MOVEMENT TO PREY VENG.

16. AT KG. SPEU ON ROUTE 4 FANK MOUNTED A MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION TO RETAKE LOST POSITIONS IN THE PHNOM
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SAMBOUR AREA. THEY HAVE REGISTERED LITTLE PROGRESS.

17. MEKONG CONVOYS FROM VIETNAM CONTINUED TO RECEIVE LITTLE HARASSMENT. THE LOSS OF THE KOMPONG LUONG BRIDGEHEAD, HOWEVER, INCREASES THE DANGER OF INTERDICTION OF THE TONLE SAP RIVER, WHICH WITH ROUTE 5 CLOSED IS THE ONLY SURFACE ROUTE TO BRING PRODUCE FROM THE GREAT LAKE PROVINCES TO THE CAPITAL CITY. THIS WEEK THE KC CONSTRUCTED CABLE, LOG AND SAMPAN BARRICADES ACROSS THE RIVE IN THREE SEPARATE POSITIONS. DURING THE PAST FOUR WEEKS THE MNK HAS LOST SIX RIVER CRAFT ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER, WHICH EQUALS LOSSES OF THE PREVIOUS FOUR YEARS.
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